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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES WESTMINSTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & WESTMINSTER WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION OPEN HOUSE

WESTMINSTER, Texas, June 10, 2005 – "The Open House for Westminster Volunteer Fire Department and Westminster Water Supply Corporation marks an incredible achievement for the residents of Westminster, Texas," said Bryan Daniel, State Director, USDA Rural Development. "It is an honor that this Agency was able to play a role in the funding of a new fire station and improvements to the water system. Both Westminster Volunteer Fire Department and Westminster Water Supply Corporation are to be commended for their commitment to provide the highest quality services to the residents of Northeast Collin County," said Daniel. The Open House will be held at 311 E. Houston Street, Westminster, Texas, on Saturday, June 11, 2005, at 1:00 p.m.

"President Bush recognizes that ensuring First Responders have the best possible equipment is essential for effective emergency services, especially in rural communities. Bringing clean water to rural communities is a major goal of USDA Rural Development," said Daniel "Upgrading these water lines is a big step in enhancing the quality of life for the residents of this area of Collin County."

"USDA Rural Development is committed to meeting the needs of rural communities and rural emergency responders. With this new fire station and the upgrades to the water system, Westminster residents can be assured their safety, security and basic needs are met for years to come." Said Daniel.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs is a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by contacting Allen M. Lambright, Area Director or Susan C. Stoneham, Rural Development Manager at 972-542-0081x4, or by visiting USDA Rural Development's website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx.